

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 043981  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY TEXT RECEIVED FROM WHITE HOUSE  
APPROVED BY ARA - MR. MCNEIL  
S/S-O:SVALERGA

-----093829 181311Z /43

O 181250Z FEB 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043981

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR VAKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SHUM OAS VE NU

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REPLY TO PEREZ LETTER ON NICARAGUA

PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER TO PRESIDENT PEREZ FROM  
PRESIDENT CARTER DATED FEBRUARY 17, 1978.

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I VERY MUCH APPRECIATED YOUR THOUGHTFUL LETTER OF  
JANUARY 31. I WANT TO AFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE  
I ATTACH TO OUR AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON  
ALL MATTERS, BUT ESPECIALLY ON THE DEFENSE AND  
ENHANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS. I HAVE BEEN GIVING  
CAREFUL THOUGHT TO YOUR LETTER.

I SHARE YOUR CONCERN ABOUT THE TUMULTUOUS SITUA-  
TION WHICH HAS DEVELOPED IN NICARAGUA. THERE  
ARE TWO IMPORTANT ISSUES AT STAKE: THE STATUS  
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OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NICARAGUA AND THE EVOLUTION  
OF THE NICARAGUAN POLITICAL SYSTEM.

YOUR DESCRIPTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION  
IN NICARAGUA WAS A MOVING ONE. WE ARE IN COMPLETE

AGREEMENT ON THE NEED FOR AN URGENT VISIT

BY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.  
MY AMBASSADOR IN MANAGUA HAS INFORMED PRESIDENT  
SOMOZA OF OUR CONCERN AND HAS SUGGESTED THAT  
THE GOVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA INVITE THE COMMIS-  
SION FOR AN URGENT VISIT. AFTER RECEIVING YOUR  
LETTER, I INSTRUCTED MY AMBASSADOR TO SPEAK TO  
PRESIDENT SOMOZA AGAIN AND REPEAT OUR REQUEST.  
IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE A POSITIVE RESPONSE SOON,  
OUR GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CONSULT ON THE MOST EFFECTIVE  
WAY TO SECURE PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S COOPERATION.

ON THE BROADER ISSUE OF POLITICAL CHANGE IN  
NICARAGUA, I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE MY THOUGHTS  
WITH YOU. I DEEPLY RESPECT YOUR STRONG FEELINGS  
ABOUT THE NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL AND DEMOCRATIC  
POLITICAL CHANGE IN NICARAGUA.

WE CAN AND WILL VOICE OUR PREFERENCE FOR  
INCREASED DEMOCRATIZATION IN ALL COUNTRIES,  
AND HAVE DONE SO REGARDING NICARAGUA. WE CAN  
AND WILL BE PREPARED TO SUPPORT BASIC HUMAN  
RIGHTS AND TO SHAPE OUR POLICIES TOWARD THIS  
END. BUT WE WILL NOT INTERVENE OR IMPOSE  
SPECIFIC POLITICAL SOLUTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL  
COUNTRIES. I KNOW THAT OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS  
WILL ACT AS ONE ON THESE ISSUES.  
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IN THIS PERIOD OF POLITICAL CRISIS IN NICARAGUA,  
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS SUSPENDED NEW ARMS  
TRANSFERS AND WITHHELD SOME ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE  
TO THE SOMOZA REGIME, AND HE IS CLEARLY AWARE  
THAT HE IS ON HIS OWN. THOUGH OUR SYMPATHIES  
ARE CLEARLY IN FAVOR OF STEADY EVOLUTION TOWARD  
GREATER DEMOCRACY, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE  
NICARAGUANS CAN ONLY BUILD A VIABLE AND LASTING  
DEMOCRACY THAT RESPONDS TO THEIR OWN PARTICULAR  
NEEDS, IF THEY UNDERTAKE AND COMPLETE THE TASK  
THEMSELVES.

BECAUSE OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND LONG EXPERIENCE  
WITH NICARAGUAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN POLITICS,  
I VALUE YOUR COUNSEL AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPS.  
I AGREE THAT WE CANNOT REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO  
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN NICARAGUA AND ELSEWHERE,

AND I AM PROUD THAT WE SPEAK TOGETHER ON THIS.

SINCERELY,

SIGNED JIMMY CARTER

HIS EXCELLENCY  
CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA  
CARACAS

P.S. (HANDWRITTEN) BEST WISHES. I LOOK FORWARD  
TO SEEING YOU IN CARACAS. END TEXT OF LETTER.

WHEN YOU DELIVER THE LETTER TO PRESIDENT PEREZ, THE  
PRESIDENT WOULD LIKE YOU TO DELIVER THE FOLLOWING ORAL  
MESSAGE: "WE SINCERELY REGRET THE DELAY. WE FULLY UNDER-  
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PAGE 04 STATE 043981

STAND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE. INDEED THE RESPONSE  
WAS DELAYED PRECISELY BECAUSE YOUR LETTER RAISED MANY VERY  
DIFFICULT QUESTIONS, WHICH LED US TO REEXAMINE OUR LONG-  
STANDING POLICY TO NICARAGUA AND TO THE ENTIRE QUESTION  
OF THE APPROPRIATE ROLE FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT  
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PAGE 01 STATE 043981  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011  
DRAFTED BY: ARA:LLEVIN  
APPROVED BY: ARA:JABUSNELL  
S/S- O DS

-----099117 182229Z /65

O 182045Z FEB 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 043981

EXDIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION CARACAS FROM SECSTATE DTD 18 FEB 1978 QTE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780075-1111  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780236/aaaabefz.tel  
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**Message ID:** e61b61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 6  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3544694  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENTIAL REPLY TO PEREZ LETTER ON NICARAGUA PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING LETTER TO PRESIDENT PEREZ FROM PRESIDENT CARTER DATED FEBRUARY 17, 1978.  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SHUM, PPDC, VE, NU, US, OAS  
**To:** CARACAS  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/e61b61d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014